United Nations A/56/392

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 September 2001
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 20 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, in my capacity as President of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, that the attached Declaration against terrorism by the Central American Presidents be circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (see annex).

(*Signed*) Edmundo **Orellana**
Ambassador

01-54727 (E) 240901 240901

Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration
Central America united against terrorism

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and the representative of the Prime Minister of Belize, meeting on 19 September 2001 at the El Zamorano Pan-American Agricultural School in the Republic of Honduras, an example of the generous action of the United States of America for development in the rural areas of Central America, make the following Declaration:

1. They reiterate their total condemnation of acts of terrorism, whatever form they may take in that they constitute the cruellest and most cowardly of crimes against humanity and undermine international peace and security.

2. In response to the recent abominable acts committed against the people and Government of the United States of America and in deep recognition of the generous support that country has provided to Central America for the strengthening of peace and democracy, they express their most sincere feelings of grief and solidarity with that people and Government, as well as their firm resolve to cooperate in and support the adoption and conduct of measures designed to punish those responsible in accordance with the rules of international law.

3. The grief felt by society in the United States is shared, given that many Central American citizens were at the scene of the tragedy.

4. The peoples and Governments of the Central American countries mourn the loss of so many lives and share the grief of their family members. In this connection, they express their hope that the rescue efforts, the location of the missing and the meeting of the fundamental needs that characterize this emergency will secure the earliest possible restoration of normality.

5. They support the recent statements by President George W. Bush in which he very rightly points out that the war embarked upon is not against Islam, but against extremist groups and factions that proclaim violence as a way of life. The Presidents are aware that these terrorist acts have created a state of fear and at the same time of justified indignation, as well as an intensive activation of security systems. Consequently, the Central American Presidents consider that this special situation which affects mankind must be handled in such a way as to permit the maintenance and increase of tolerance and good relations among different cultures, religions, ethnic groups and nations, in an indication of the richness of human diversity.

6. They endorse the decision by the Security Council contained in resolution 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001 calling on all States to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these terrorist attacks.

7. Likewise, our Governments will sponsor and participate within the Organization of American States in the convening, on an urgent basis, of meetings to deal with the issue of terrorism as a threat to democracy and security in the hemisphere and to demonstrate our solidarity with the United States of America. We

believe that these meetings will serve to analyse the current situation and to propose specific national, bilateral and multilateral measures aimed at decreasing the vulnerability of our countries and societies to this new threat, building institutional capacity and improving the appropriate measures for preventing, combating and eliminating terrorism.

8. The Central American Presidents call on all political organizations maintaining relations with terrorist structures to suspend them forthwith. Such relations seek to legitimize international terrorism and may lead to the use of Central American territory as a base for terrorist acts.

9. We are taking the following measures, to take immediate effect within and outside our countries:

(a) Improvement of mechanisms for the exchange of information relating to possible terrorist acts between one another and with the United States and other national, regional and multilateral bodies;

(b) Strengthening of security at the region's borders, ports and airports;

(c) Maximum efforts to control and monitor migration flows in order to halt any movement of persons associated with terrorism;

(d) Coordination of action to ensure that Central American territory is not used by terrorist groups, of whatever origin or ideology;

(e) Efforts to strengthen criminal legislation so that it categorizes association with terrorist groups or individuals as a crime and authorizes the freezing and if necessary confiscation of financial resources of networks of such persons or of terrorist groups;

(f) Strong condemnation of any link between groups or sectors in the Central American region and international terrorism;

(g) Respectful urging of the legislative and judicial systems in their respective countries to apply the necessary regulations that will make it possible to try and punish these crimes against humanity by establishing appropriate mechanisms for the expeditious extradition and handing over of these criminals to the States calling for them;

(h) Ensuring the full application of the regional and international instruments on the subject, in particular the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, of 1970; the Convention to Prevent and Punish Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes Against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance, of 1971; the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, of 1971; the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, of 1973; and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, of 1979.

10. The above actions are to be implemented immediately by regional authorities, to which end the Presidents decide:

(a) To convene an extraordinary meeting of the Central American Security Commission to evaluate options for regional action;

(b) To convene the meeting of Central American National Civil Police Directors and the bodies dealing with migration flows in the region;

(c) To convene the Conference of Central American Armed Forces in order that it may agree to make available to the United States the services of its Humanitarian and Rescue Unit.

* * *

The Presidents reiterate their hope for a renewed world imbued with the highest values and principles of civilized, free, democratic and peaceful coexistence.

(*Signed*)
Miguel Angel **Rodriguez Echeverría**
President of Costa Rica

(*Signed*)
Francisco Guillermo **Flores Pérez**
President of El Salvador

(*Signed*)
Carlos Roberto **Flores Facussé**
President of Honduras

(*Signed*)
Alfonso **Portillo Cabrera**
President of Guatemala

(*Signed*)
Arnoldo **Alemán Lacayo**
President of Nicaragua

(*Signed*)
Moisés **Cal**
Representative of the Prime Minister of Belize